

supplies as a byproduct of the agriculture industry. Methanol, which would also extend the desulfurizer bed life, is not preferred since it is toxic; while MTBE is likewise not preferred since it is thought to be a carcinogenic compound, and may be banned in certain areas of the United States in the near future by new environmental regulations. Preferred oxygenates are non-toxic and non-carcinogenic oxygen donor compounds, such as ethanol or the like. When water is an oxygenate included in the gasoline or diesel fuel mixture being desulfurized, the water content of the fuel mixture should be in the range of about 3% to about 5% by weight of the fuel mixture."

### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 12-19 without prejudice.

Please rewrite Claims 1, 5, 8, 9-11, 20 and 22-25 as follows.

1.(amended) A method for desulfurizing a hydrocarbon fuel stream so as to convert the hydrocarbon fuel stream into a low sulfur content fuel, which low sulfur content fuel is suitable for use in a fuel processing section in a fuel cell power plant, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a nickel reactant desulfurization station which is operative to convert sulfur contained in organic sulfur compounds contained in the fuel stream to nickel sulfide;
- b) introducing a hydrocarbon fuel stream which contains an oxygenate into said nickel reactant desulfurization station; and
- c) said oxygenate being present in said fuel stream in an amount which is effective to provide an effluent fuel stream at an exit end of said nickel reactant station which effluent fuel stream contains no more than about 0.05 ppm sulfur by weight.

5.(amended) A method for desulfurizing a gasoline fuel stream so as to convert the gasoline fuel stream into a low sulfur content fuel, which low sulfur content fuel is suitable for use in a fuel processing section in a fuel cell power plant, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a nickel reactant desulfurization station which is operative to convert